

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 RSR-01 IO-13 OMB-01 /112 W
----- 107673

P R 160620 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORIZY 7279

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN - MUCH STIRRING, BUT NO CLEAR PROSPECT
OF RESOLUTION

REF: KARACHI 0867

BEGIN SUMMARY. FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JUNE HAVE
WITNESSED CONTINUING MANEUVERING BY GOVERNOR BUGTI' S
PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION, BUT THUS FAR THIS MANEUVERING
HAS FAILED PRODUCE ANY CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS LEADING
TOWARD RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL IMPASSE. ALTHOUGH ARRESTS
OF NAP- JUI SUPPORTERS CONTINUE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO
REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE SUCH AS OCCURRED
MID- MAY (KARACHI 0817). ON JUNE 11 SARDAR ATTAULLAH
KHAN MENGAL, NAP MPA AND PROVINCIAL LEADER OF UDF,
ISSUED CALL FOR " CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" MOVEMENT IN PRO-
VINCE TO COMMENCE JUNE 15, BUT MENGAL' S COLLEAGUE MIR
GHAUS BUX BIJENZO ANNOUNCED JUNE 13 THAT CAMPAIGN HAD
BEEN DEFERRED. AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN QUETTA JUNE 14
ON FOUR- DAY VISIT TO BALUCHISTAN, PRESIDENT BHUTTO MET
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SEPARATELY WIZH FIVE NAP- JUI MPA' S AT GOVERNOR' S HOUSE. NEED TO CONVENE BUDGET SESSION OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY PRIOR END OF MONTH IS CONTRIBUTING TO PRESSURE FOR SOME SORT OF CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT, BUT MANEUVERING COULD WELL CONTINUE TO ELEVENTH HOUR. CONTINUING UNTIDY POLITICAL IMPASSE IS DRAWING INCREASING UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC COMMENT (KARACHI A-53 AND A-55) WHICH UNLIKELY AFFECT PRESIDENTIAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM BUT MAY ENCOURAGE NAP- JUI OPPOSITION TO MAINTAIN HARD PUBLIC IMAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 8 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED 9- MEMBER DELEGATION OF NA MEMBERS, HEADED BY GOP MINISTER OF LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS PIRZADA, TO INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS IN BALUCHISTAN AND REPORT BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY WITHIN TWO WEEKS. GROUP EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BALUCHISTAN EVENING OF JUNE 15 AND TOUR VARIOUS AREAS OF PROVINCE. SAME DAY NAP/ UDF LEADER SARDAR ATTAULLAH KHAN MENGAL ANNOUNCED IN QUETTA THAT NO- CONFIDENCE MOTION WOULD BE MOVED BY 12 MEMBERS WHEN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED FOR BUDGET SESSION. THUS FAR, NINE OF 12 MEMBERS HAVE SIGNED MOTION. ABSENT FROM LIST OF SIGNATORS ARE TWO NAP MPA' S FROM MEKHRAN DISTRICT NOT THEN IN QUETTA AND MPA AHMED NAWAZ BUGTI REPORTED TO BE IN KARACHI. REPORTS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PRESS TOUR (JUNE 6) HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LOW KEY AND, WHILE ADMITTING FOOD SHORTAGES IN SOME AREAS, HAVE NOT HIGHLIGHTED PAST INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE OR SUGGESTED THAT THERE ANY MAJOR DISTURBANCES CURRENTLY OCCURRING THE MENGAL AND MARRI AREAS WHICH THEY VISITED.

2. SINCE MENGAL' S JUNE 11 CALL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT REPORTS OF ARRESTS OF NAP- JUI SUPPORTERS HAVE INCREASED AND AT LEAST TWENTY- FIVE WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY JUNE 12, 13 AND 14, SOME FROM QUETTA, BUT THE BULK OF THEM FROM OUTLYING AREAS. ON JUNE 10 EX- NAP- JUI MINISTER OF EDUCATION GUL KHAN NASEER WAS ARRESTED IN QUETTA ON CORRUPTION CHARGES. NASEER' S ARREST DESCRIBED BY CHIEF MINISTER JAM SAHIB OF LAS BELA AS NOT BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, BUT PURELY A CRIMINAL MATTER. FAILURE TO ARREST OTHER EX- NAP- JUI MINISTERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND EX- GOVERNOR BIJENZO AGAINST WHOM SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN AILED BY GOVERNOR BUGTI SUGGESTS THAT EXPEDIENT OF ARRESTING SUFFICIENT OPPOSITION FIGURES TO INSURE MAJORITY SYMPATHETIC TO BUGTI- LED COALITION IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY PROBABLY NOT TO BE PURSUED, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS POINT.

3. MENGAL'S JUNE 11 CALL FOR "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" MOVEMENT TO COMMENCE JUNE 15 DREW UNFAVORABLE COMMENT FROM SECRETARY OF THE UDF, BECAUSE IT WAS ISSUED BY PROVINCIAL NAP WITHOUT REFERENCE TO CENTRAL NAP AND UDF. FOLLOWING THIS, COMPROMISER BIJENZO TRAVELED TO QUETTA AND ON JUNE 13 ANNOUNCED THAT BECAUSE OF THE GRAVE CRISIS FACING THE COUNTRY AND TO PRESERVE UNITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES, BALUCHISTAN NAP HAD DECIDED TO DEFER ITS CALL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT DESPITE FACT DEFERMENT POSSIBLY MIGHT ENCOURAGE BUGTI REGIME TO CRACK DOWN HARDER OR DESCRIBE DEFERMENT AS A VICTORY.
TIGER

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /112 W

----- 107697

P R 160620 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7280

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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4. EVENING OF JUNE 14 SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN QUETTA FROM FOUR-DAY TOUR IN SIND, PRESIDENT BHUTTO MET SEPARATELY WITH FIVE NAP-JUI MPA'S. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS NAP-JUI MPA'S HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COALITION'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO MEET INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY WITH PRESIDENT AS THEY WISHED. NONE OF THE NAP STALWARTS -- MENGAL, MARRI OR AHMED NAWAZ BUGTI OR THE TWO MPA MEMBERS FROM MEKHRAN -- WERE AMONG THOSE WHO MET WITH PRESIDENT. THERE NO REPORTS OF SUBJECT OF PRESIDENTIAL

DISCUSSIONS WITH MPA' S, BUT WE SURMISE BHUTTO CARRYING FORWARD EFFORTS TO CAJOLE OR INTIMIDATE LESS HARD- LINE FIGURES OF NAP- JUI COALITION TO SHIFT THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO BUGTI GROUP.

5. COMMENT: THUS FAR NAP- JUI COALITION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MAINTAINING ITS UNIT. BUGTI' S INABILITY TO FORGE A COALITION IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS HAS RESULTED IN AN UNTIDY PROVINCIAL POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH IS DRAWING INCREASING UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSTITUTES EMBARRASSMENT TO BHUTTO REGIME. WHETHER BHUTTO' S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WILL SUCCEED AT ELEVENTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HOOR IN ESTABLISHMENT OF COALITION ACCEPTABLE TO HIM REMAINS TO BE SEEN. AT THIS POINT, SACRIFICING BUGTI MIGHT DO THE TRICK, BUT DOUBTFUL BHUTTO WOULD COUNTENANCE THIS. BHUTTO DOES HAVE OPTIONS OF REIMPOSING PRESIDENTIAL RULE OR DISSOLVING ASSEMBLY AS LAST DITCH MEASURES, BUT AS NEITHER ACTION WOULD RESOLVE BASIC IMPASSE IT LIKELY THAT ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE SOME OTHER TYPE OF PACKAGE WILL CONTINUE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ULTIMATE SHAPE OF SUCH A PACKAGE.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KARACH01024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730623/aaaajfcx.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KARACHI 0867
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980212
Subject: BALUCHISTAN - MUCH STIRRING, BUT NO CLEAR PROSPECT OF RESOLUTION
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ISLAMABAD
KABUL
LAHORE
TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

